

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 NEA-10 AF-10 L-03 FCC-03

COME-00 OTPE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 OC-06 INR-10

RSC-01 ARA-16 EA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 OIC-04

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CCO-00 /170 R

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IO:RDMOREY

IO/UN/BAPS:WMSOUTHWORTH

EB/TD:GHUFFCUTT

NEA:TGRANT

IO/SEC:RVHENNES

EUR:DGOOTT

AF/R:PWALKER

IO/TRC:PMILLER

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R 120046Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL TORREMOLINOS

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A/

TAGS: ITU, ETEL, UN, AORG, AFIN, XF

SUBJECT: ITU - USE OF ADDITIONAL OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

REF.: STATE 197420 AND TORREM 57

FOR US DEL TORREMOLINOS

1. IN GENERAL, WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE PROLIFERATION OF
LANGUAGES IN THE UN SYSTEM. WE DO NOT WISH TO MAKE A
PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF LANGUAGES WHICH
GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF MAKING INVIDIOUS DISTINCTIONS
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BETWEEN LANGUAGES THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY UN

ORGANIZATIONS AND THOSE THAT ARE PROPOSED. IF THE DELEGATION BELIEVES IT TO BE PRODUCTIVE, IT MAY MAKE A STATEMENT THAT WE CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE THAT THE ORGANIZATION FIND A WAY TO BALANCE THE USE OF LANGUAGES AND THE BURDEN OF THEIR COSTS ON THE MEMBERSHIP, AND MAY DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF COST SHARING WE HAVE OUTLINED IN REFTEL. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ARAB MEMBERS' OFFER TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF THE USE OF ARABIC IN THE UN TO EXPLORE THE IDEA OF REQUIRING EACH MEMBER TO PAY FOR THE LANGUAGE IT CHOOSES TO USE. NOT ONLY DOES THIS PROPOSAL FLOW LOGICALLY FROM THE ARAB GROUP'S WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR ARABIC IN THE UN, BUT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT IN COPING

WITH ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES, BEYOND THOSE MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 111 OF THE UN CHARTER, THAT WE SEE COMING DOWN THE ROAD.

2. THE DELEGATION SHOULD SEEK THE SUPPORT OF OTHER DELEGATIONS FOR THE ADOPTION OF A NEW SYSTEM OF FINANCING LANGUAGES, SUCH AS THAT SUGGESTED BY REFTEL. IT MAY POINT OUT THAT THE ALTERNATIVE IS THE BURDEN OF COSTS OF ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES SOARING BY WHAT AMOUNTS TO ALMOST A GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION. UNLESS THE MEMBERS WHO ARE PROPOSING NEW LANGUAGES OFFER TO REIMBURSE THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE COSTS, THE DELEGATION SHOULD ABSTAIN ON A VOTE TO INTRODUCE SUCH LANGUAGES, WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY PARTICULAR LANGUAGES, BUT THAT WE WANT THE ORGANIZATION TO DEVELOP A DIFFERENT SYSTEM OF FINANCING THE COSTS OF ALL LANGUAGE SERVICES, INCLUDING ENGLISH. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE202417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KHBAILEY:AL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731034/aaaaazaf.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 197420 AND TORREM 57
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by smithjr>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITU - USE OF ADDITIONAL OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
TAGS: ETEL, AORG, AFIN, XF, ITU, UN
To: TORREMOLINOS USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005